

Voice of Baptists

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"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." *Isaiah 40:3*

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JOY IN THE LORD UNDER THE WORST CIRCUMSTANCES

By J. H. Smith
Nashville, Tenn.

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vine: the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat: the flock shall be cut off from the fold and there shall be no herd in the stall: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation"
Habakkuk 3:17, 18

Habakkuk lived and prophesied in very troublesome times, and the burden fell upon him to speak for God and tell the people of the coming, invading forces of the Chaldeans who would destroy the country as punishment for their unfaithfulness that they had been warned about in time, and time again. But he sounds out some very encouraging words, however, for those who would turn back to God, even if they were left sitting on a heap of ruins. He tells, at least, what he would be able to do in such a situation: "I will joy in the God of my salvation." I wonder if we too wouldn't be rejoicing more in the Lord if we didn't have so many other things on our hands, even though they were given to us through the goodness of the Lord. We are bogged down with a lot of things that we could do without. But yet there are grumblings and complainings like we have never heard before. God has given us so much, but there are more ungrateful hearts than there has ever been.

When there is no food, what about it then? Habakkuk says, "Although the fig tree shall not blossom," of course no blossom, no figs, "neither shall fruit be in the vines" No figs, and no grapes; and these were very important in that day. Fruit was very much a part of their diet, fresh figs from the tree, and grapes from the vineyards. These and some other fruits are the dessert of people in the East. If we eat with a family there, when

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WHAT I REMEMBER ABOUT CALVIN GREGORY

By F. W. Lambert

The first time I ever saw Bro. Calvin Gregory was at Siloam Baptist Church, where Bro. A. J. Sloan gave out an appointment for him to preach in the early 20's. He was the loudest speaker I have ever heard. He had a very strong voice. He was saved when a young man at Mace's Hill in the Brush Arbor meeting held by, I believe, Eld. Ernest Corum from Riddleton and united with Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in October 1909. He was baptized by R. B. Davis.

God called Bro. Calvin Gregory to preach and he was ordained to full work of the ministry, December 1912. He was a mail carrier and drove a horse and buggy but gave up that job which would have made him a living and devoted his time to preaching the gospel.

Bro. Gregory had a wonderful memory, in fact, the best I ever saw. He could quote chapter after chapter, and give dates on things I had never heard of. He was very bashful, he told me. He asked for an appointment at Defeated Creek to preach, and among his hearers was Jim Jones. When Jones got home his wife said, "how did the young preacher do?" Jones replied, "if he ever preaches he's got it all to do."

He first married May Gammons. She went to school where Brother Gregory taught at Old Bottom. Her English wasn't too good and after their marriage he told her if she would leave off saying a certain word he would buy her a new dress and she did. When he was in school he was at the head of the class and never had a problem he couldn't handle.

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WORSHIP OF GOD

By Kenneth W. Massey

"...the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth." John 4:23

What does it mean to "worship God?" Well, I've tried to include all into one statement, but must honestly admit that I cannot explain it thoroughly in the space of this article. However, if one sentence only was allowed for definition, mine must be - SEEING NO ONE SAVE GOD.

Do you recall the transfiguration scene and Peter's desire to build three tabernacles (places of worship), one for Moses, another for Elijah, and a third for Jesus. God rebuked Peter, as he together with James and John were temporarily blinded, and reminded him that Jesus is above the Lawgiver and the Prophet. So when they could see again, they saw no man save Jesus only. Let us hear him. Let us worship God! True worshippers shall worship the Father.

A COMMAND

"And thou shalt set it before the Lord thy God, and worship before the Lord thy God: **Deuteronomy 26:10**

No time is more worshipful to me than when hearing a dear brother exalt truth as a spiral sent heavenward, and that under the influence of God the Holy

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VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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WHO IS THAT SPEAKING TO ME?

By Arvella Stapleton

Deep, deep inside of me there is a still small voice speaking to me, an urgency not to be denied, a feeling to go speak to someone about their soul. A question to be asked, "Are you lost? Do you know Jesus as your personal Savior? Are you sure you will go to heaven when this life is over?" I begin to tremble, my heart is pounding within my breast. I can hardly breathe. It seems my whole being will burst if I don't go now and speak to my loved one.

Then.....I hesitate! Is this the Holy Spirit bidding me to go talk to my dear one? What could I say that would help? How can I begin to tell anyone about the great love Jesus Christ has for all of us? Would he have me try to explain how he suffered and died for all who would come to Him? Who am I to undertake such a mission?

Well....the Bible says try the Spirits. So, I had better do that. Which one is talking to me? God or Satan?

So....I ponder....What should I do? The service continues, God's children are telling their experiences, praising God, speaking to the lost one's and I am still trying to decide. Would God have me go to someone or is there someone here who can speak more fluently than I? What will everyone think of my attempt to talk to my friend? Will they laugh at me? What will I say?

As I continue pondering these questions the service is coming to close. The benediction is prayed. I have lost the opportunity to speak for God to my dear friend one more time. The feeling within my breast is gone. My heart has stopped

pounding. The trembling has stopped and my throat is not so tight now. As we leave the Church there is an awful, sinking feeling within me. I'm not happy, I can barely speak. I rush to my car and hurry home. But....all week—my mind is tormented with the thought "Should I be the one to go talk to him? Would it have helped him? What will happen now? Will he have another chance to hear the word? Will someone speak to him about Jesus Christ?"

Well...."Will someone?"

Who was that speaking to me? Was God leading me to witness for Christ? Was the Holy Spirit within me trying to get me to invite my friend to be saved?

Yes! It was God! Again I failed to recognize the Holy Spirit within me and Satan won one more victory! I allowed Satan to hinder me and now I must pay the consequence.

"Oh Lord! Please give me another opportunity to speak to my loved ones. Please don't let them go out into Eternity lost because I failed. Please give me another chance to be a witness for Thee? Help me, Oh God, to be ready to give to all those who are lost the answer of the hope within me. May we always be ready."

CALVIN GREGORY

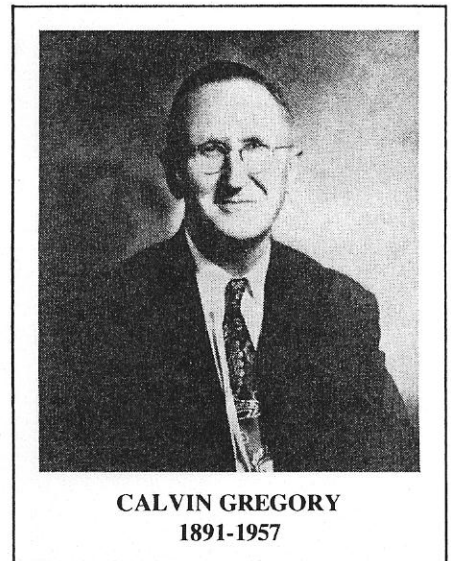
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D. Henry Piper, Superintendent of Schools in Macon County, told me Bro. Gregory was the smartest man in Macon County. He had moved here and bought a interest in the Macon County Times and later bought out his partner. His children by May Gammons Gregory were Lawrence and Meddie. May became ill and Bro. Massey and Bro. Gregory carried her to Dr. Haggard in Nashville. The doctor said it was too late and told Bro. Gregory to tell his wife she didn't have long to live. Bro. Gregory would cry when he would tell me about that. Meddie told me that May called Lawrence and herself to her bedside and asked them to promise to meet her in Heaven and they did. She soon passed on.

Some time later he married Ethel Gann of Smith County. She died in child-birth and they buried mother and child in the same casket, and at that time I had no connection or very little knowledge of Bro. Gregory. I had been called to preach at that time and had seen him at the Enon Association where he had served as clerk for forty years and preached the doctorinal sermon for twenty-five years. He came to visit our home after Ethel had passed away. He told me of their

courtship and her death and also of the death of May. He said he had so much sorrow he thought he could never laugh again. Here our friendship started.

I was called to Red Hill as pastor and also Union Camp. One night he called me and ask if I would pastor Mt. Tabor. I told him I couldn't, that I was the pastor at Red Hill. He said, "Lambert, your opportunity would be much greater, and if you don't take it they will elect, so and so." I had tried to preach at Mt. Tabor filling Bro. N. C. Fuquas' appointment, so with Bro. Gregory's help and advise I said if elected I'll come. I was elected and served the church for 19 years. That's how I learned much about Calvin Gregory. About this time he married Betty Jenkins and to their union three children were born, Leonard, Charles and Sue.



CALVIN GREGORY
1891-1957

Bro. Gregory helped to organize the church at Mace's Hill in August of 1917 and was their pastor for 40 years until his death. Mace's Hill called me to help Bro. Calvin Gregory in a revival meeting. I helped him in sixteen meetings. He knew English and the Bible. I told him to correct my English and he often did. So, I went to school also in our meetings, and listened to his sermons which were some of the greatest I have ever heard. I worked with him in some twenty-five meetings. He helped me at Mt. Zion near Holland, Kentucky and also helped at Mt. Tabor several times.

Our paths crossed so many times and he was always jolly and telling jokes. He loved to get one on me. I remember we were eating in Lafayette one day and I was on my way to a funeral when I took a fork to pry the top off a pint of milk and it skipped to the milk and the milk spilled on my coat and tie. He grabbed a towel and tried to clean me up and horse laughed right loud. I said of all the

millions of people in the United States you had to be the one sitting here. I soon dried up and I went on my way.

Bro. Gregory held around 3,000 funerals and after his death I held many of his funerals. I would sit in the pulpit or chair and think if Bro. Gregory were alive he would be sitting here.

Brother Gregory knew the names of many of the stars. We were out one clear night and he said, "Lambert that star yonder is so and so and named many." He carried me one day to Mutton Bluff spring. One hollow went down by Bro. Ellis Porter's and the other Dixon Creek. He knew lots about the Civil War. The soldiers at Mutton Bluff would get a sheep off of a farm and ask the farmer to come and eat. He didn't know he was eating his own sheep.

One day he said Lambert, go with me to Carthage. We went down the creek of Mimmie Gregory Hill. He would say so and so was hanged on a certain day, and he could name the group. That was one of the most pleasant days we ever spent together as he told me the history of most every field and crossroad.

He was a great debator, meeting the best the other side had to offer.

I received a very sad call about a man that had done more in 66 years than most men would do in a 100. Bro. Calvin Gregory is in the Lafayette hospital with a stroke. The call was early and I went right to the hospital. Dr. Smith said to go on in and see him but that he wouldn't know me. I went to his bedside and he was breathing hard. It was the first time he didn't say hello Lambert. I said good-bye with tears. Dr. Smith said he wouldn't live. So that day his walk and talk stopped. But today his great work still follows on.

His funeral was held in the Lafayette High School building by Bro. W. T. Russell, Bro. Paul Oldham and myself. His body sleeps in the beautiful city of the dead at Haysville, Tennessee.

(This article appears with permission of Macon County Times Editor, Charles Gregory. Charles Gregory is a son of the late Calvin Gregory who is noted for his accomplishments as a Baptist preacher and a pioneer newspaperman. Bro. Gregory will be inducted into the Tennessee Newspaper Hall of Fame during a special ceremony to be held October 10.

Also, let me add this personal remark in tribute to the memory of Bro. Calvin Gregory. He preached the gospel of my (Kenneth Massey) salvation August 6, 1953 during the annual revival of Enon Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Trousdale County, Tennessee. I shall

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT BAPTIST ASSO.

The one hundred and thirty third annual session of this body of Baptists will convene October 9-11, 1981 with Landmark Baptist Church in Memphis.

Elders E. F. Prince, Arzell Douglas and John Hedges will preach the annual sermons.

ORDINATION SERVICE

The Old Time Baptist Church of Elizabeth, W. Va. has set apart Brother Philip Creecy to be ordained to the office of Deacon and has scheduled this event for Saturday, October 17, at 10:00 a.m.

Elders and Deacons of churches in our fellowship are hereby invited to assist us in his matter. The church in Elizabeth seats with the Siloam Missionary Baptist Association. Jerry Reynolds-Pastor (1-304-485-2476) Danny Chandler-Clerk (1-304-665-2533)

REVIVAL

Sept. 13

Peyton's Creek Miss. Baptist Church - Monoville, Tenn. Pastor Raymond Smith will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services each evening at 7:30 p.m. Please visit or pray for these revival services.

WORSHIP OF GOD

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Spirit. While it is a command to worship, no greater serenity has ever been known than that received in reciprocal from true worship to God.

Moses said, "thou shalt worship the Lord thy God (Deut. 6:13), and Jesus endorsed the same by saying, "get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and him only shalt thou serve" (Matt. 4:10).

THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS SHALL WORSHIP THE FATHER!

NOT TO BE WORSHIPPED

Mortal men are never to be worshipped. Herod the king killed James and seeing it pleased the Jews had Peter taken captive intending to kill him. That same day after Peter's deliverance, the king arrayed himself in royal apparel, sat upon

thank God until my dying day for Bro. Gregory's influence on my eternal life.)

his throne, and gave an oration to the Tyrians and Sidonians in the presence of all the people of Caesarea. The people gave a shout, saying, it is the voice of a God, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory; and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

Peter went to Caesarea to preach the gospel to Cornelius, and as he was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

It is good to respect and honor God's servants for their work's sake, but the worst thing you could do is worship them. The worst thing they could do is receive your worship.

THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS SHALL WORSHIP THE FATHER!

VAIN WORSHIP

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Matthew 15:9

Rejectors of Christ as Messiah have denied truth forfeiting any knowledge of the Spirit, and therefore, all of their worship is in vain. Those who deny the personable relationship between a believer in Christ and the Holy Spirit cannot worship in spirit or truth.

When Paul approached Mars Hill finding the Athenians holding devotions and maintaining an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD, he said, "Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you" (Acts 17:23). God is not worshipped with men's hands, neither dwelleth in temples made with hands, but is a God that can be felt after and found with the hearts (center of feelings) of men.

God allowed an angel to show John things in heaven. He saw a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. After seeing and hearing many heavenly things, John fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which had showed him these great things. Now listen, "Then saith he (the angel) unto me, See thou do it not (don't worship me): for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God." Rev. 22:9

Paul said in Hebrews, "And let all the angels of God worship him (Jesus Christ)" (Heb. 1:6).

GOD IS A SPIRIT: AND THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.

John 4:24

JOY IN THE LORD*(Continued from Page 1)*

we have finished a main course, they bring on some fresh figs, or fresh grapes from the vine for the dessert, that is when they are in season. Or other fruits in their season. Then the prophet mentions the olive, if it fails, What? Olives are another important item for people in the East. They are eaten, of course, and the oil pressed from the olive was used to mix with other foods, and in Biblical days they used the oil for fuel, to burn in their oil lamps. And the prophet goes on: "And the fields yield no meat" No grain for bread, a basic food, and no vegetables for the table; Further he says, "The flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stall. He has included all kinds of food that people eat, and other essentials to life at the time. If all these essentials to life fail; no food, and the children crying for bread, how about it then? Well, that great prophet and servant of the Lord, Habakkuk said, "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will joy in the God of my salvation" This reminds us of what Paul said in Romans 5:2, 3: He says in verse 2, that we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. But then he says: "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also" Listen, Only a truly born again child of God can rejoice in circumstances as mentioned above. Superficial professors, many of them, would turn and curse God if He were to take away what they have.

Many of God's people are enjoying more of the material blessings today than ever before, especially in the United States, but less people are experiencing joy in the Lord. Usually worldly goods and the care about them crowds the Word of God clear out of our thinking, and when this happens we can't expect to have much joy from our salvation. There are more Bibles today than ever before, but the most of them are just dust catchers. People just don't pick them up, open them and see what great Words are on the inside. We must feed our souls on God's precious Word, or we will have a lean soul, and not much joy. Joy comes by obedience, but how can we obey if we don't know what God has said? But somebody says, I let the Spirit lead; yes, but how are you going to know which spirit is leading if you have no knowledge of God's teaching from His Word? The Holy Spirit leads in accordance with His Divine Truth, not contrary to it.

It is a little strange, but true, that people in the same household will have such different views about spiritual things. One son, or one daughter, may have deep interest about what God has to

say, and then another one will be only concerned about Worldly goods and the pleasure of them. Martha and Mary were sisters, and Jesus, our Lord, came to visit them; Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and heard His gracious Words, Luke 10:39; She fed her soul on the Words that fell from the Master's lips; Jesus said in another place, "Blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it." Luke 11:28; But Martha, Mary's sister, had other views from her sister. She was concerned about serving her guest, and she wanted Mary to get up from hearing the Words of the Master and help her serve. Jesus lovingly rebuked Martha for this, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things; but one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41-42. Martha was busy, she wasn't lazy, but she was more concerned about many things than she was about feasting on the Word of God. Things have to be done around the house, and in other places, but putting everything else before the Lord, and His Word and Work, is the thing that is starving souls today; Maybe God will have to take it all away from us, as he did in the days of ancient Israel and His servant Habakkuk; but on the other hand, even if God were to destroy what material goods we have, maybe by a nuclear war, how many left would be able to look out and see the destitution, the fields burned over, the fruit orchards withered away, the livestock all killed, famine on a full scale, and rejoice in the Lord?

Where is your heart? The Bible answer to this question is, it is where your treasure is (Matthew 6:21) If your heart is set on the world, then down here is where your treasures are, you haven't laid up any in heaven; and how can you expect to rejoice in the Lord? There are so many worldly Christians today that the world out there cannot distinguish them from sinners. They would like to have joy in the Lord, but the price is too high. Poor lean souls! You have to do things around the house on the Lord's day, or you have got to go visiting on Sunday, or you think that Sunday is the only day to relax and have some recreation, church can be left to the others. Poor lean soul! You talk of your troubles, and you think you are having it harder than anybody. Whose fault is it? Is it God's? Or is all my ills somebody else's fault? Or, would you be humble enough to say it is my own backslidings; I haven't been faithful to my Lord; so I am dried up on the stalk. But there is hope. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and

FAIRVIEW MEMORIAL PLANS SPECIAL DAY

On Sunday, September 26th, Fairview Memorial Missionary Baptist Church of Fairview Avenue, Bowling Green, Kentucky will have an All-Day Homecoming Service. Preaching that morning by Elder W. T. Russell, who is resigning care of the church as pastor after 18 years of faithful and dedicated service, lunch at noon will be served to everyone and singing in the afternoon by the Lonnie Cockriel Family and the Southern Harmony Boys.

All former members are especially invited to attend. A special invitation is sent to everyone who has been saved or strengthened under the influence of Bro. Russell's strong, Bible and Baptist doctrinal preaching.

Sunday School begins at 9:50 a.m. with the Worship Hour beginning at 10:50 a.m.

Elder Billy Moran is the pastor elect and will begin his labors with the church January, 1982. May the God of heaven bless the lives and labors of these ministers and this good church for the glory and honor of Him that sitteth upon His radiant throne.

SILOAM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

On Friday morning, October 2, 1981 at 10:00 a.m. the Siloam Baptist Association will convene for its twenty-ninth annual session. Pleasant Hill Baptist Church located near Franklin, Kentucky will serve as host church for 1981. Services will continue Friday evening with the Memorial Service and again Saturday with the Doctrinal Sermon. Elder Doug Curtis will preach the Introductory Sermon on Friday morning. Elder Charles Patterson has the Memorial Sermon with Elder Jerry Reynolds selected for the Doctrinal Sermon.

just to forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I can't think of a verse in the Bible that needs to be heeded to more than this one in 1 John 1:9. And John is writing to children of God. See 1 John 2:1.